

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 February 2004 (05.02.2004)

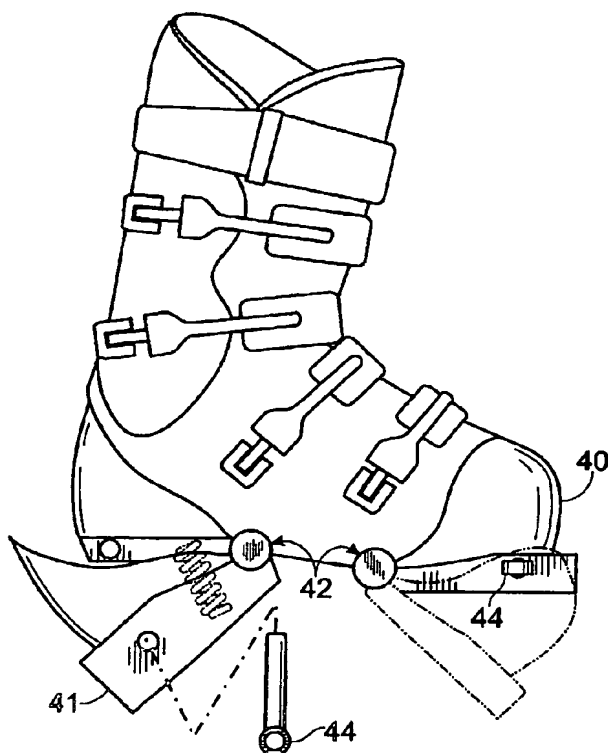
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/010809 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: A43B 5/04, 13/18, 21/30
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2002/038422
- (22) International Filing Date: 2 December 2002 (02.12.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/399,226 25 July 2002 (25.07.2002) US
- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: FRANCIS, Charles, Jelinek [US/CZ];
U MICHNA-MOWLAVI, SLIKOVA 1119/9, 169 00
PRAGUE 6 PRAGUE (CZ).
- (74) Agent: SKOCH; Edwin A. Skoch, Registered Patent At-
torney, 67 Wall Street, 22nd Floor, PMB#0029, New York,
NY 10005-3198 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC,
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declarations under Rule 4.17:**
— as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i)) for all des-
ignations

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS FACILITATING WALKING IN SKI BOOTS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus, in its first, second, and third embodiments, that is intended to be temporarily attached to the soles of ski boots, whenever the wearer is not attached to skis and desires the ability to comfortably walk or desires protection for the soles of the ski boots. The first three embodiments generally comprise of sandal-like soles made of a resilient, elastic, springy material, which aids in the natural walking action by alternately compressing and releasing, adding energy to the step, thereby aiding walking while wearing ski boots. A fourth embodiment is made by altering the ski boots themselves so that the heel (41) and toe (40) sections of the boot are hinged (42) to the underside of the boot, and contain a spring that adds energy to each step taken by the user. The hinged sections are pinned against the boot while skiing.